

have called on Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf to suspend efforts to bring Syrian refugees to Pennsylvania until there are verifiable and robust mechanisms in place to properly screen all participants for potential security risks.

To facilitate the thorough screening needed, I am supporting legislation prompting the Department of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence and the FBI, to provide new security assurances before admitting refugees into the country and for the Government Accountability Office to conduct a sweeping review of security gaps in the current refugee review process. This measure addresses both shortcomings in our existing programs and ensures a role for congressional oversight.

Mr. Speaker, the refugee crisis the world faces is a symptom of a larger problem: militant Islam and the efforts of groups like ISIS to destabilize and destroy others. We need a long-term solution to this problem, and that includes defeating ISIS.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 48 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

Reverend Christopher Weidner, St. Luke Lutheran Church, Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

O God, You are our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.

We remember Your servant leaders who have come before us, speaking light out of darkness, fashioning order out of chaos, and, mindful of the voiceless, daring decision and deploying power for the life of our Nation and the care of the Earth.

Move us by their witness, O God, and guide us by Your wisdom in every opportunity that comes before us now.

And when our way is uncertain, untraveled, or unclear, when failure or fatigue drive us apart, restore our footing, reconnect us, by the gravity of Your grace.

Remember us as one body, Members of this one House, faithful in our one service.

Give us courage, inspire our imagination, nudge us to dare the possible in Your gift of today with our gifts for tomorrow, in Your holy name, we pray.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. ASHFORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ASHFORD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### WELCOMING REVEREND CHRISTOPHER WEIDNER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome and introduce our guest chaplain for today, Pastor Christopher L. Weidner, the pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania.

In 1985, Pastor Chris was ordained as a minister of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. For 30 years, he has played an active and important role in our local community, engaging in programs such as the companionship ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council Finance Committee, the Bear Creek Lutheran Camp board of directors, and he has helped provide affordable housing for seniors through the St. Luke Knolls program. Additionally, he volunteers his time as a hospital chaplain.

This coming Sunday, after 20 years, Pastor Chris will serve his final worship service at St. Luke's. We wish him blessings on the next chapter in his ministry.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome Pastor Christopher L. Weidner to the people's House today and offer our most heartfelt thanks for leading us in prayer this morning as our guest chaplain.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PALAZZO). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### TERROR WILL NOT PREVAIL

(Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, the world stands with the people of France this week.

The events in Paris were horrifying. All of us were shaken by them. Yet we know that whenever terror like this strikes, the world community will rally together. Terror will not prevail. But these events should serve as a reminder: there is still evil out there. We cannot ignore it. We cannot contain it. We must defeat it. And we must protect our people.

The country is uneasy and unsettled, and they have every right to be—not because of what they are hearing from politicians, but what they have seen with their own eyes. All of us here, Republicans and Democrats, are hearing these concerns in our offices.

People understand the plight of those fleeing the Middle East, but they also want basic assurances for the safety of this country.

We are a compassionate nation. We always have been, and we always will be. But we also must remember that our first priority is to protect the American people. We can be compassionate, and we can also be safe.

That is what the bill that we are bringing up tomorrow is all about. It calls for a new standard of verification for refugees from Syria and Iraq. It would mean a pause in the program until we can be certain beyond any doubt that those coming here are not a threat. It is that simple. I don't think it is too much to ask.

I also want to point out that we will not have a religious test, only a security one. If the intelligence and law enforcement community cannot certify a person presents no threat, then they should not be allowed in. This is common sense, and it is our obligation.

Let me also say to Members and to the country that we cannot lose sight of the bigger threat in Syria. The refugee crisis is just a consequence of a failed policy in that region. The ultimate solution is a plan to defeat ISIS.

That is why we are sending to the President a bill this week that requires him to finally propose an overarching strategy to deal with Syria and the terrorist threat in that region. This threat is not going away until we acknowledge and confront the real danger that exists.

There is a long road ahead, but today, for this moment, I urge all of my colleagues to support the legislation tomorrow and to help keep America safe.

#### HONORING DR. ROBERT HEANEY

(Mr. ASHFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Robert Heaney on the occasion of his 87th birthday. It is an honor to share a birthday, November 10, with such a distinguished member of our community.

Dr. Heaney is a world-renowned researcher in vitamin D deficiency. He is one of the most published researchers in the United States. He has published